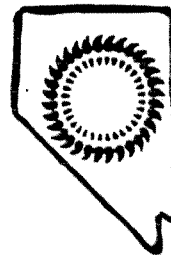


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

July temperatures in Nevada were a little above normal in all but the Northeast, where it was a tad cooler than normal. As is normal during summer, rainfall was hit and miss, as thunderstorms occurred in some locations and not in others. These showers late in the month brought 1.18" to the Las Vegas Airport, over twice what had fallen in the previous six months! In fact, 1/4 of the normal annual rain fell in 2 days, for the 8th wettest July in the 60 years of Airport records. In the nearby Spring Mountains nearly 5" of rain fell, with over 2" coming in just a few hours in some locations. At the other end of the State and the rain gage stick Honey Lake Fish & Game and Golconda in the Northwest for example, had no rain this month.

Water Year Precipitation (Oct. 1, 1995 - Aug. 1, 1996) departures from normal have changed little except in parts of the South, being 100 - 120% of normal, except only 70% of normal in the East and about 50% in the south.

TEMPERATURE

Warmer than usual nights over much of Nevada brought slightly above normal temperatures to most locations. In most locations daytime highs were also above normal, with, for example, 16 days of 100°+ and a high of 106° at Lorraine Clifton's Gabbs location, and 13 such days and a 103° top at Eugene Gates Mina weather station. In the west, Ted Hendricks had 27 days over 90° and a 101° tops, while the temperature reached 93° at the 6500 foot Virginia City Fire Department, only 2 degrees shy of the 95° July record set in 1960. Statewide, Laughlin recorded 118° and Overton 117°, not near the 126° State record of last year at Laughlin.

In the Northeast, Frank Prunty at Charleston recorded a 22° on the 20th, with 6 other nights below freezing, and a monthly high of 92°. Last July the mercury fell to 16° here for the State July record. For sheer shock, "try on" San Jacinto, where Dave Secrist recorded 4 nights below 32°, with a 27° low, but also 19 days over 90° and a high of 97°!

PRECIPITATION

The Nevada Division of Forestry Stations at Lee and Kyle Canyon on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas reported the most rain this month. 8300 foot Lee Canyon had 4.90" and 1.79" in a few hours on the 11th in a thunderstorm, while 7500 foot Kyle Canyon had 3.62" and 2.13" on the 16th in a similar situation. Other wet spots were the Montgomery Pass Casino with 3.36" and 1.30" on the 17th, Verdi with 2.06", Ruth at 1.99" and 1.87" at the Boies Ranch, with 1.43" on the 29th. Probably the most intense short-duration rain fell at 8500 foot Tahoe Meadows near Lake Tahoe, as Hal Klieforth measured 1" in only 1 hour on the 11th.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were near normal this month, with both wind and evaporation above normal. Several locations had 40 - 60mph wind gusts in association with thunderstorms. Some evaporation totals were 11.09" at Honey Lake F. & G., 9.35" at U.N.R., 7.25" at Minden, and 9.22" at Jim Moser's Orovida Ranch. Also, Bob Bransford had 9.77" at Shoshone, with 16.31" of pan evaporation at Ruby Lake.

NOTE 1: Which July brought most of Nevada's hot temperatures? Probably 1931, when for example, Las Vegas had 118°, Reno and Austin 106°, Carson City 107°, and Minden 108°, all

NOTE 2: Winter may not be too far off! When was Nevada's first zero reading of the year? September 22, 1895 at Carlin.

NOTE 3: Ten years ago-- A very cool July-- Lovelock, Minden and also wet in the Reno-Virginia City-Tahoe areas - 2.70" in one hour at Verdi and Daggett Pass and 1.66" in one hour in Sparks.

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